

RE: FY23 Operating Budget

Dear Council President Albornoz and Members of the County Council,

I am writing to ask for full funding of the Parks Department's FY23 Operating Budget.

Montgomery County Parks provides a large variety of activities from organized activities on ballfields and nature centers, to playgrounds and trails for cycling, running and hiking. All these activities, and the many not listed, require maintenance for existing amenities and staff for new opportunities.

As a Parks Volunteer, I have spent many years helping to build and maintain a small portion of Montgomery County's vast natural surface trail system, but volunteers can only do so much. We are dependent on Parks staff for large maintenance jobs and building new trails.

From programed activities to unstructured activities, Montgomery County Parks Department provides invaluable opportunities for citizens to revitalize, exercise, explore, and learn in the natural environment around us. To preserve these opportunities, I ask that the Parks Department's FY23 Operating Budget is fully funded.

Joe Fritsch

Olney, MD